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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,631	03/24/2004	Tony Eccleston	7156-70279-02	6082

24197 7590 12/13/2005
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EXAMINER

BOCHNA, DAVID

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/808,631	Applicant(s) ECCLESTON, TONY	
	Examiner David E. Bochna	Art Unit 3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-11, 13-17, 19-25, 27-31, 33-39, 41 and 42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 12, 18, 26, 32 and 40 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 4, 12, 18, 26, 32 and 40 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from another multiple dependent claim. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, claims 4, 12, 18, 26, 32 and 40 have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-3, 7-9, 13-17, 21-23, 27-31, 35-37 and 41-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Grepaly et al.

In regard to claims 1, 15 and 29, Grepaly et al. discloses an end fitting 1 (fig. 1) for a pipe, the end fitting comprising a housing defining a bore 10 for receiving an end portion of the pipe 9, the surface of the housing defining the bore having at least one raised portion 2 for engaging the corresponding outer surface of the pipe to provide a seal.

In regard to claims 2, 16 and 30, the raised portion 2 is formed integrally with the housing.

In regard to claim 3, 17 and 31, the raised portion is in the form of an annular ring.

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In regard to claims 7, 21 and 35, further comprising a radially extending, internally threaded, opening 4 formed through the housing and extending to the bore, and a bolt threadedly engaging the opening and adapted to engage the pipe.

In regard to claims 8, 22 and 36, the bore is stepped to define at least two bore portions 10 and 6 having different diameters, the raised portion 2 being formed in the bore portion 6 having the lesser diameter.

In regard to claims 9, 23 and 37, further comprising a support ring 3 extending within an end portion of the pipe so that the latter end portion of the pipe extends within the raised portion and the support ring.

In regard to claims 13, 27 and 41, the pipe 9 has multiple layers, wherein the end portions of all of the layers extend in the bore portion with the greater diameter; and wherein the end portion of less than the layers extend in the bore portion with the lesser diameter.

In regard to claims 14, 28 and 42, the raised portion 2 is formed in the bore portion with the lesser diameter 6.

4. Claims 1, 5-6, 15, 19-20, 29 and 33-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schnabel.

In regard to claims 1, 15 and 29, Schnabel discloses an end fitting 16a for a pipe, the end fitting comprising a housing defining a bore for receiving an end portion of the pipe, the surface of the housing defining the bore having at least one raised portion for engaging the corresponding outer surface of the pipe 10 to provide a seal.

In regard to claims 5, 19 and 33, the raised portion is formed by providing scallops in the housing surface.

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In regard to claims 6, 20 and 34, the raised portion is formed by providing undulations in the housing surface.

5. Claims 1, 9-11, 15, 23-25, 29 and 37-39 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scholtes.

In regard to claims 1, 15 and 29, Scholtes discloses an end fitting 12 for a pipe, the end fitting comprising a housing defining a bore for receiving an end portion of the pipe, the surface of the housing defining the bore having at least one raised portion for engaging the corresponding outer surface of the pipe 13 to provide a seal.

In regard to claims 9, 23 and 37, further comprising a support ring 18 extending within an end portion of the pipe so that the latter end portion of the pipe extends within the raised portion and the support ring.

In regard to claims 10, 24 and 38, the ring has an annular flange 19 formed thereon that engages the shoulder 16 defined between the two bore portions 12 and 11.

In regard to claims 11, 25 and 39, the flange 19 extends radially outwardly from the flange.

Conclusion

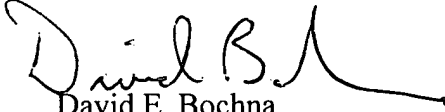
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Blin et al., Sotelo et al., Wallace, Dickinson and Feust et al. all disclose similar couplings common in the art.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David E. Bochna whose telephone number is (571) 272-7078. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


David E. Bochna
Primary Examiner
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